

SAMPLE ONSITE INTERVIEW FOR A HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE POSITION

U = Unacceptable A = Acceptable T = Target

Opening:

1. You indicated on your résumé that you have been involved with _____.
Please tell me more about that. U A T

Curriculum:

2. Tell me how you have made a typical language topic interesting to students. U A T
3. Give an example of a national or state standard in language and how you have taught a lesson incorporating that standard. U A T
4. How have you supplemented the textbook in your classes? U A T

Planning/ Methods:

5. Describe the steps of teaching a high school class for a 55-minute period. U A T
6. Which methods do you most frequently employ in teaching? U A T
7. Describe any projects or group work that have been successful with students. U A T
8. How have you prepared students for standardized tests (AP) and/or graduation tests? U A T

Student motivation:

9. How have you encouraged students to stay in school and graduate? U A T
10. What kinds of stressors do today's teens face and how have you helped them to cope with their concerns? U A T
11. How have you met the needs of gifted, talented, and advanced students in your classes? U A T
12. How have you helped at-risk students to achieve academic success in your classes? U A T

Assessment and management:

13. Explain your grading scale to me as though you were explaining it to your 10th-grade class. U A T
14. Explain your classroom management plan to me as though you were explaining it to ninth graders. U A T
15. Describe a time when your authority was challenged, or a class rule was broken, and how you reacted. U A T

Communication/Professionalism

16. How have you communicated long-range plans to students and parents? U A T
17. How have you supported students' participation or become better acquainted with them through their extra-curricular activities? U A T
18. How do you stay current in your subject-matter field and in the field of teaching? U A T

At some point during the interview, the employer should explain the following to you:

Describe assignment (class size, room, etc.) _____

Describe salary / benefits _____

Inform candidate of hiring timeline _____

Inform candidate of how to contact district personnel _____

If the interviewer knows specifics of language teaching, expect questions such as these:

1. What percentage of a typical lesson is taught in the target language? Why?
2. Describe your experiences teaching grammar.
3. Describe a sample cultural lesson or unit you have used with a class.
4. Describe your experiences with students who are native speakers in your classes.
How are native speakers a challenge and a help in the class?
5. How have you enabled students to use the target language outside of class or for a larger audience?